

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed May 30, 2003, in which claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, and 14-24 were rejected, and claims 2, 8, 13 and 25 were objected to. Applicant has thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and, when coupled with the above amendments, are believed to render all claims at issue patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Claims 2, 8, 13 and 25 are canceled. Claims 1, 9 and 19 are amended. Claim 26 is newly added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-7, 9-12 and 14-24 and 26 are pending.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

CLAIM REJECTION - 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

With respect to Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-7 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada et al. (US 5,810,928) in view of Nakasuji et al. (US 5,945,660). Moreover, the Examiner rejected claims 9-12 and 14-24 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada et al. (US 5,810,928) as modified by in view of Nakasuji et al. (US 5,945,660) as applied to claims 1 and 3-7 above, and further in view of Pirelli (US 5,537,313).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant accepts the Examiner's view in paragraph 6 of the Office Action, and adds the feature in claim 2 into claim 1 according to the instruction of the Examiner, and combines the feature of claim 13 with claim 9, and also combines the feature of claim 25

with claim 19. Thus, through the amendment described above, the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 14-24 are removed. Claim 26 is a combination of claims 1 and 8.

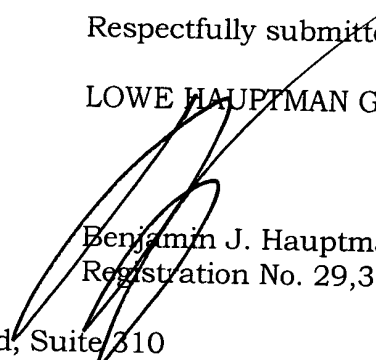
Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of pending claims 1, 3-7, 9-12 and 14-24 as currently presented as well as newly added claim 26 are in condition for allowance.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP


Benjamin J. Hauptman
Registration No. 29,310

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone: (703) 684-1111
Facsimile: (703) 518-5499
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